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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women (CEDAW)
Tenth session
Vienna, 21 January - 1 February 1991

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The tenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be held at the Vienna International Centre, from 21 January to 1 February 1991. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 21 January 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

2. In accordance with rule 5 of the Committee's rules of procedure (A/38/45, annex III), the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda, with annotations.

3. Pursuant to rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee will be held in public, unless the Committee decides that a meeting or part of a meeting should be closed.

4. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 5 which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the tenth session. In accordance with rule 49 of the rules of procedure, "representatives of States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State's report is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the said report".

5. At its ninth session, the Committee, having taken note of the statement on programme budget implications, agreed, in accordance with rule 50 of the rules of procedure and subject to authorization by the General Assembly, that a pre-session working group should be convened before the tenth session in 1991. The working group would be constituted, as for the ninth session, of five members to meet for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to second periodic reports for transmission to States parties before the meetings at which their reports were scheduled to be discussed. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1990/17 and the General Assembly in its resolution A/C.3/45/L.22 endorsed the convening of the pre-session working group. The working group is scheduled to meet at the Vienna International Centre from 14 to 18 January 1991.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.
2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.
6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee
8. Consideration of the Report of the meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly.
9. Follow up on the views of the Committee on resolution 44/156 entitled "World conference on human rights".
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session.

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

The tenth session of the Committee will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee

As provided for in rule 10 of the rules of procedure, the new members of the Committee shall make the solemn declaration.

3. Election of officers

In accordance with article 19, paragraph 2, of the Convention and rules 13 and 14 of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect as its officers a chairperson, three vice-chairpersons and a rapporteur for a term of two years. The term of officers elected at the 8th session therefore expires at the beginning of the 10th session. The Committee agreed to elect new officers at the beginning of a session in order to ensure continuance of its work during the sessions. Rule 14 states that the officers are eligible for re-election, provided that the principle of rotation is upheld. Rule 43 provides that elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election for which the number of candidates does not exceed the number of places to be filled.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure requires that the Committee shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session. In accordance with this rule, during a session, the Committee may add only important items, which cannot be postponed.

The Committee will discuss under this item the organization of work during the tenth session and any other organizational matters. For that purpose the Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: Working Group I to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II on ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. The Committee decided at its seventh session to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. Their composition should remain the same throughout the session to ensure continuity of membership. The working groups will meet during the session.

5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

Under this agenda item, the Committee will: (a) consider the reports on the agenda of the tenth session; and (b) review the status of submission of reports for the Committee's eleventh session.

(a) Consideration of reports

The Committee will have before it for consideration the initial report of Italy (CEDAW/C/5/Add.62), and the second periodic reports of Austria (CEDAW/C/13/Add.27), Denmark (CEDAW/C/13/Add.14), Norway (CEDAW/C/13/Add.15), Philippines (CEDAW/C/13/Add.17), Poland (CEDAW/C/13/Add.16), Portugal (CEDAW/C/13/Add.22), Rwanda (CEDAW/C/13/Add.13) and Yugoslavia (CEDAW/C/13/Add.23).

A tentative time-table for the consideration of reports at the tenth session is given below:

Tentative time-table for consideration of reports of States parties:

Italy (Initial)	CEDAW/C/5/Add.62	Monday, p.m. Thursday, p.m.	21 January 1991 24 January 1991
Norway (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.15	Wednesday, a.m.	23 January 1991
Poland (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.16	Thursday, a.m.	24 January 1991
Philippines (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.17 and Corr.1	Friday, a.m.	25 January 1991
Rwanda (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.13 and Amend.1	Monday, a.m.	28 January 1991
Denmark (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.14	Monday, p.m.	28 January 1991
Portugal (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.22	Tuesday, a.m.	29 January 1991
Austria (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.27	Tuesday, p.m.	29 January 1991
Yugoslavia (Second periodic)	CEDAW/C/13/Add.23	Wednesday, p.m.	30 January 1991

In accordance with rule 49, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, the representatives of States parties shall be present at the meetings of the Committee when the State's report is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the said report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its tenth session.

(b) Reports by States parties received under article 18 of the Convention but not yet considered by the Committee

In addition to the reports that are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its tenth session (see item 5 (a) above), the Secretary-General has received the initial, second and third periodic reports of the following States parties:

Initial reports

State party	Date due	Symbol
Barbados	3 September 1982	CEDAW/C/5/Add.64
Burkina Faso	13 November 1988	CEDAW/C/5/Add.67
Guyana	3 September 1982	CEDAW/C/5/Add.63
Honduras	2 April 1984	CEDAW/C/5/Add.44
Kenya	8 April 1985	CEDAW/C/5/Add.68
Iraq	12 September 1987	CEDAW/C/5/Add.66/Rev.1
Madagascar	16 April 1990	CEDAW/C/5/Add.65
Yemen	29 June 1985	CEDAW/C/5/Add.61
Romania	6 February 1983	CEDAW/C/5/Add.45

Second periodic reports

Bangladesh	6 December 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.30
China	3 September 1986	CEDAW/C/13/Add.26
Czechoslovakia	18 March 1987	CEDAW/C/13/Add.25
Ecuador	9 December 1986	CEDAW/C/13/Add.31
El Salvador	18 September 1986	CEDAW/C/13/Add.12
France	12 December 1990	CEDAW/C/13/Add.32
Nicaragua	26 November 1986	CEDAW/C/13/Add.20
Spain	4 February 1989	CEDAW/C/13/Add.19
Sri Lanka	4 November 1986	CEDAW/C/13/Add.18
Venezuela	1 June 1988	CEDAW/C/13/Add.21

Third periodic reports

Sweden	3 September 1990	CEDAW/C/18/Add.1
Poland	22 November 1990	CEDAW/C/18/Add.2
Portugal	6 December 1990	CEDAW/C/18/Add.3

6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

In accordance with article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention and rule 48, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties. It should be noted that rule 48 stipulates that the suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

At its ninth session, the Committee agreed to defer three draft general recommendations which could not be discussed, to the tenth session. These recommendations concerned unpaid women workers of family enterprises, recognition of the unremunerated contribution of women to the gross national product, and women workers in enterprises.

It was proposed further at the ninth session, that at each session, one meeting should be set aside to discuss the implementation and application of the articles of the Convention. At the tenth session discussions should focus on articles 5, 9, 12 and 16.

The Committee also agreed to consider further its general recommendation No. 5 (seventh session 1988) with regard to the greater use by States parties of temporary special measures to promote de facto equality between men and women.

7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

At its ninth session the Committee considered the possibility of holding a pre-session working group for 1991, including the work it would undertake; the development of consolidated guidelines for the initial part of the reports of States parties; the updating of the report of the Committee on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties inthe implementation of theConvention submitted at the Nairobi World Conference; and the priority issues on which its discussions would focus at the tenth session.

In the light of concerns relating to the type of analysis required by the Committee in its work, as well as followup to the items discussed at the ninth session, the Secretary-General, in accordance with his responsibilities under article 17 of the Convention, has requested the inclusion of a specific item on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee. Information will be presented to the Committee for its consideration on improvement of Secretariat support to the Committee.

8. Consideration of the report of the meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/135, the Secretary-General convened the third meeting of the chairpersons of the bodies entrusted with the consideration of reports under the relevant human rights instruments. The meeting was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 1990. The report of the meeting and the resolution subsequently adopted by the General Assembly will be before the Committee for its consideration.

9. Follow up on views of the Committee on resolution 44/156 entitled "World conference on human rights"

The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/156, considered that, in view of the progress made to achieve the goal of promoting respect for human rights and the new challenges that lay ahead, it would be appropriate to conduct a review of what had been accomplished through the human rights programme and what remained to be done. It accordingly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations

bodies concerned with human rights on the desirability of convening a world conference on human rights for the purpose of dealing at the highest level with the crucial questions facing the United Nations in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights and to submit a report to the General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session. The Chairperson of the Committee, after consultation with members of the Committee, has submitted her views to the Centre for Human Rights. They are reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/). The Chairperson, in accordance with rule 5 of the Committee's rules of procedure, applied for inclusion of the item in the provisional agenda for the Committee's tenth session.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session

In accordance with article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention and rule 45 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council a report on the work of each session.